Hathni kund barrage

†1653. DR. RAM PRAKASH: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether a proposal for construction of a canal from Hathni Kund barrage to Narayan Garh, District Ambala has been received by Government from Haryana Government;

(b) if so, the details of the proposal;

(c) the present status of the proposal; and

(d) the time likely to be taken to get approval in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) Detailed Project Report (DPR) for a proposal namely Ambala-Naraingarh Irrigation Scheme has been received in Central Water Commission (CWC) from Government of Haryana in November, 2007.

(b) CWC has informed that the proposal consists construction of a lined branch canal (sides lined and bed unlined) for ground water recharge off-taking from Western Jamuna Canal near Hathni Kund Barrage with a designed discharge of 84 cubic feet per second (cusec). The distribution system shall cover a gross culturable area of 1,35,627.7 hectare (ha.) and cultivable command area of 1,08,502.2 ha. of Yamuna Nagar, Ambala and Panchkula districts of Haryaya.

(c) As per CWC, the proposal has been examined and CWC's observations on various aspects such as irrigation planning, inter-state issues, hydrology, design aspect, cost aspect etc. have been sent to the project authorities for their responses.

(d) The time likely to be taken to get approval will depend upon the State Government's responses on CWC's observations.

Detection of underground water

1654. SHRI PRAKASH JAVADEKAR: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) the progress of the mission for detection of underground water source of disappeared mythological river Saraswati;

(b) whether it is true that the satellite images have conclusively established the underground track of Saraswati; and

(c) if so, through how many States it is passing and why should the precious water resources, not be exploited to meet the growing demand?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) The Ministry of Water Resources has not launched any Mission for detection of underground water sources of disappeared mythological river Saraswati.

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†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) and (c) A study has been carried out jointly by the Scientists of Regional Remote Sensing Service Centre, Indian Space Research Organisation, Jodhpur and Ground Water Department, Government of Rajasthan, Jodhpur. The results of the study have been presented in the article titled "New Findings of the Course of River Sarasvati,", published in the Journal of Indian Society of Remote Sensing. The authors have concluded as under.

"Clear signatures of palaeo channels on the satellite imagery in the form of a strong and powerful continuous drainage system in the NW region and occurrence of archaeological sites of Pre-Harappan, Harappan and Post Harappan age, beyond doubt indicate the existence of a mighty palaeo drainage system of Vedic Sarasvati river in this region. As observed from satellite imagery river Sarasvati flowed eastward more or less parallel to the river Indus and shifted its course within a .much narrower zone of less than 40 km. The major (western most) channel of river Sarasvati remained more or less constant and unchanged and is considered to be the actual Rig Vedic Sarasvati river. The description and magnanimity of these channels also matches with the River Sarasvati described in the Vedic literature. From the prominence and width of the palaeo channels on the satellite data, supported with data from archaeological finds, age and quality of ground water, sediment type, etc., it is confirmed that river Sarasvati had its major course through present day river Ghaggar and further passing through parts of Jaisalmer and adjoining region in Pakistan and finally discharging into the Rann of Kachchh. A major palaeo channel of the river passes through Jaisalmer district while a considerable part of the river drained further, inside Pakistan."

Pachnada dam

†1655. SHRI GANGA CHARAN: Will the Minister of WATER RESOURCES be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government has turned down project for construction of Pachnada dam in Uttar Pradesh; and

(b) if not, the details regarding the budget sanctioned so far for this project and the time by which this project is going to be started?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF WATER RESOURCES (SHRI VINCENT PALA): (a) and (b) The proposed Panchnad Dam is located below the confluence of 5 rivers viz. Yamuna Chambal, Kunwari, Sindh and Pahuj. The catchment area of Chambal, Kunwari and Sindh lies in Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan. Apart from Uttar Pradesh, the scheme involves submergence of .land in Madhya Pradesh. Chairman, Central Water Commission (CWC) took an inter-state meeting with the officials of the Governments of Uttar Pradesh, Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan on 13.06.2007 in respect of Panchnad project. CWC requested Uttar Pradesh to provide a copy of the Detailed Project Report (DPR) of this project to all concerned States/Departments. Madhya Pradesh and Rajasthan States were requested to give their comments on the DPR within a month. Subsequently, the Government of Madhya Pradesh intimated CWC in December, 2008 that they do

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.